

REMARKS

Examination of the above-identified application in view of this Preliminary Amendment is requested. By the present amendment, claims 2, 14, 19, and 20 are amended, and claims 21-24 are added. Claims 1-24 are pending in the application. Claims 19 and 20 are allowed. Claims 5, 8, 9 and 15 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 2 and 14 are amended to replace "clamping portion" with "fill tube portion" for proper antecedent basis. Claims 19 and 20 are amended to place the claims in proper form.

Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 10, 12-14, and 16-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Wallner et. al. (hereinafter referred to as "Wallner"). For the reasons set forth below, Applicants respectfully disagree with this rejection.

Claims 1 and 13 recite a deployment portion for directing said inflatable curtain to deploy inboard of the trim piece. Wallner does not disclose or suggest this feature.

The mounting portion 102 that the examiner alleges to be the deployment portion lies flush with the side structure 16 and clearly extends in a downward and outward direction as viewed in Figs. 7 and 8. The portion 102, extending outward and along the side structure, clearly would not direct the curtain to inflate inboard of the trim piece. Nothing disclosed in Wallner that teaches or suggests otherwise. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 13 are allowable.

Claims 3, 4, 6, 7, and 10-12 depend from claim 1 and are therefore allowable as depending from an allowable claim and for the specific features recited therein.

Claims 15 and 17 depend from claim 13 and are therefore allowable as depending from an allowable claim and for the specific features recited therein.

Claim 2, which depends from claim 1, should be allowed for the same reasons as claim 1 and also for the additional feature recited therein. Claim 2 recites that the fill tube support portion has a curved configuration with first and second opposite ends. The connecting portion extends transversely from the first end of the fill tube support portion. The deployment portion extends transversely from the second end of the fill tube support portion. Wallner does not disclose or suggest this feature. Rather, Wallner discloses that the mounting portion 104 extends from the housing support portion 102 as depicted in the figures. The mounting portion 104 does not extend from a second end of a fill tube support portion. Therefore, claim 2 is allowable.

Claim 7, which depends from claim 1, should be allowed for the same reasons as claim 1 and also for the additional feature that the deployment portion defines a concave channel for receiving the inflatable curtain in a deflated and stored condition. Wallner does not disclose or suggest a deployment portion that defines a concave channel for receiving the inflatable curtain in a deflated and stored condition. Rather, Wallner discloses a housing support portion 102, which the examiner alleges to be the deployment portion, that is flat and straight with no curves as shown in Fig. 3. The housing support portion 102 defines no concave channel for receiving the inflatable curtain. Therefore, claim 7 is allowable.

Claim 14, which depends from claim 13, should be allowed for the same reasons as claim 13 and also for the additional feature recited therein. Claim 14 recites that the fill tube support portion has a curved configuration with first and

second opposite ends. The connecting portion extends transversely from the first end of the fill tube support portion. The deployment portion extends transversely from the second end of the fill tube support portion. Wallner does not disclose or suggest this feature. Rather, Wallner discloses that the mounting portion 104 extends from the housing support portion 102 as depicted in the figures. The mounting portion 104 does not extend from a second end of a fill tube support portion. Therefore, claim 14 is allowable.

Claim 16, which depends from claim 13, should be allowed for the same reasons as claim 13 and also for the additional feature that the deployment portion defines a concave channel for receiving the inflatable curtain in a deflated and stored condition. Wallner does not disclose or suggest a deployment portion that defines a concave channel for receiving the inflatable curtain in a deflated and stored condition. Rather, Wallner discloses a housing support portion 102, which the examiner alleges to be the deployment portion, that is flat and straight with no curves as shown in Fig. 3. The housing support portion 102 defines no concave channel for receiving the inflatable curtain. Therefore, claim 16 is allowable.

New claim 21, which depends from claim 13, should be allowed for the same reasons as claim 13 and also for the additional feature that the fill tube support portion extends between the connecting portion and the deployment portion. Wallner does not disclose or suggest this feature. Therefore, claim 21 is allowable.

New Claim 22, which depends from claim 1, should be allowed for the same reasons as claim 1 and also for the additional feature that the fill tube support portion extends between the connecting portion and the deployment portion. Wallner does not disclose or suggest this feature. Therefore, claim 22 is allowable.

New claim 23, which depends from claim 1, should be allowed for the same reasons as claim 1 and also for the additional feature that the deployment portion extends away from the side structure of the vehicle. Wallner does not disclose or suggest this feature. Therefore, claim 23 is allowable.

New 24, which depends from claim 1, should be allowed for the same reason as claim 1 and also for the additional feature that the deployment portion extends in a direction away from the vehicle roof and inboard in the vehicle. Wallner does not disclose or suggest this feature. Therefore, claim 24 is allowable.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the amendment be entered and the application allowed. Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in the fees for this amendment to our Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

Respectfully submitted,



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